parties/joint venture partners or general public or both. In 8 cases, divestment through the IPO route is applicable, the first of which becomes due from July 2005.

As per information provided by SEBI, one proposal for Initial Public Offer from the Union Bank of India has been filed with SEBI during the current financial year.

Progress by Brahmaputra Board

*38. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Brahmaputra Board was set up to prepare Master Plans, conduct surveys and implement multi-purpose projects in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley;

(b) if so, what progress has been made by the Board for the benefit of this area;

(c) the steps being taken to make the Board beneficial for the North-Eastern States; and

(d) whether it is a fact that three top posts of Brahmaputra Board have been lying vacant since its inception in 1980 ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Brahmaputra Board has prepared Master Plans for Water Resources Management. The Master Plan Part-I on main stem of Brahmaputra river and Master Plan Part-II on Barak River and its tributaries have been completed and approved by Government of India. Both the Master Plans have sent to the concerned State Governments/organizations for the implementation of the recommendations projected in the Master Plans. The Master Plan Part-III comprising of 41 tributaries of the River Brahmaputra including Majuli Island and 8 rivers of Tripura are under different stages of completion. Out of them, 27 have been completed and approved by Brahmaputra Board. Remaining 22 are under different stages of completion.

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Survey and investigation of 8 projects are under progress for preparation of Detailed Project Report. The Board has taken up the execution of Pagladiya Dam Project at a cost of Rs. 542.90 crore through Central funding. Infrastructure development is in progress. The Board has acquired about 956 ha. of land for Rehabilitation and Resettlement from Government of Assam. Harang Drainage Development Scheme is also under execution.

(c) To provide maximum benefits to the North-East States, the Brahmaputra Board is actively involved in preparation of Master Plans for Water Resources Management, Survey and Investigation Works for preparation of Detailed Project Reports of identified Drainage Development Schemes and for multipurpose dam projects, watershed management and anti erosion schemes in different States of North-Eastern region.

(d) No, Sir

Cross Border Trade through North-Eastern States

*39. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the border points developed and opened for promotion of border trade with the neighbouring countries through North-Eastern borders indicating infrastructure created, list of items finalized for export-import through bilateral agreements, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of trade as well as item-wise demand for cross border trading;

(c) the action taken and achievements made on the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Commerce *vide* its 36th report including the recommendations of the inter-ministerial task force on border trade; and

(d) the role and present status of IIFT in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) There are 37 border points developed and open for promotion of border trade with the neighbouring countries through North Eastern Region. There are 16 points in Assam out of which 5 are functional. There are 10 points in Meghalaya out of which 8 are functional. There are 8 points in Tripura out of which 5 are functional. There are 2 points in Mizoram and 1 in Manipur and all of them are functional. The